

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01 /090 W

-----070746 010720Z /14

R 281138Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6090

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 2040

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: MLA FURTHER POLITICAL ACTIVITY

REF: A) ISLAMABAD 1995 B) ISLAMABAD 1275 C) ISLAMABAD 0794

1. CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS TO TIGHTEN UP THE "PROCESS OF ACCOUNTABILITY", THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION (MLA) FEBRUARY 27 ISSUED MARTIAL LAW ORDER #38, WHICH PROHIBITS POLITICAL ACTIVITY "IN ANY MANNER WHATSOEVER" FOR THOSE AWAITING HEARINGS BEFORE THE DISQUALIFICATION TRIBUNALS (REFS B AND C). THE PROHIBITION WILL BE LIFTED ONLY IF AND WHEN THE TRIBUNAL ISSUES
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A NOT GUILTY VERDICT IN EACH SPECIFIC CASE. PRESS REPORTS FEBRUARY 28 SAY THAT INDIVIDUALS WILL BE AFFECTED FROM THE DATE THEIR NAMES APPEAR IN THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE, BUT WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE LAW MINISTRY IS SAYING IT IS "UNSURE" WHEN THE LIST WILL BE GAZETTED.

2. THOSE LIKELY TO AFFECTED IMMEDIATELY ARE THE 89 PERSONS

WHO WERE REFERRED FEBRUARY 3 (REF B) TO THE DISQUALIFICATION TRIBUNALS. THE ORDER IS BEING INTERPRETED HERE AS AN ATTEMPT TO FREEZE ALL POLITICAL ACTIVITY BY THE PAKISTAN PEOPLES PARTY HIERARCHY, INCLUDING BEGUM BHUTTO, WHOSE NAMES MAKE UP A MAJORITY OF THE FEBRUARY 3 LIST.

3. THE MLA HAS ALSO ISSUED A NEW MARTIAL LAW REGULATION WHICH PRESCRIBES PUNISHMENTS OF UP TO 14 YEARS "RIGOROUS IMPRISONMENT", FINES, AND THE CONFISCATION OF PROPERTY FOR FAILURE TO APPEAR "WITHOUT REASONABLE CAUSE" WHEN SUMMONED TO APPEAR BEFORE A MILITARY OR CIVILIAN INQUIRY. THESE SEVERE PUNISHMENTS SEEM AIMED AT THOSE PROMINENT PPP-ITES WHO HAVE FLED PAKISTAN, INCLUDING FORMER PUNJAB GOVERNOR AND BHUTTO-CONFIDANT GHULAM MUSTAFA KHAR, FORMER SIND MINISTER JAM SADIQ ALI, AND HUSNA AHAD SHEIKH, A "CLOSE FRIEND" OF THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER WHO IS REPORTED BY SOME TO BE HIS THIRD WIFE.
HUMMEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 28 feb 1978
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MLA FURTHER POLITICAL ACTIVITY
TAGS: PINT, PK
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Type: TE
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